

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-3207

November 23, 2010

**1819**

Julius Genachowski  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Jon Liebowitz  
Chairman, Federal Trade Commission  
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20580

Inez Tenenbaum  
Chairman, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission  
4330 East West Highway  
Bethesda, MD 20814

Dear Chairpersons Genachowski, Liebowitz and Tenenbaum:

I want to express my serious concern and request urgent action regarding a recent series of reports exposing the danger to American families posed by wireless video and audio baby monitors.

Parents purchase baby monitors to protect and secure their children – not to open their home to the eyes of anyone who seeks to look inside. However, recent investigations have found that intruders or kidnappers can literally look and listen inside a family home with the assistance of a readily available store-bought wireless baby monitor.

By purchasing certain types of wireless baby video monitors, outsiders waiting hundreds of feet from a home can quickly and easily see the same image of a young child or an entire room seen by parents inside the home. Or, anyone can simply drive through a neighborhood with a wireless baby monitor and search for signals. Potential intruders could identify whether the parents or children are home at all, helping create conditions for burglary – a serious concern for the upcoming holiday season when many families travel. Even worse, a potential kidnapper or abuser could easily identify the location of a child within the home and the easiest point of entry to abduct or cause harm to a child.

Parents deserve to be fully informed about the serious potential risks to their children posed by wireless baby monitors. I strongly urge the FTC and FCC to investigate this issue and require

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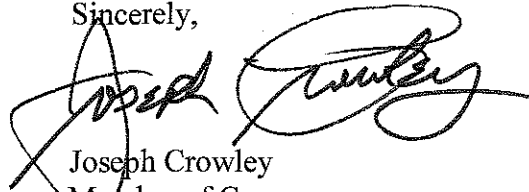
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visible and prominent labeling on all baby monitors warning parents which devices can be viewed or listened to by outside parties. Further, I urge the Consumer Product Safety Commission to conduct a risk analysis of wireless baby monitors and issue public guidance informing parents of the dangers of some types of these products. I further ask that the CPSC issue recommendations to parents about what types of baby monitors do not expose their children, families and homes to such dangers.

I plan on introducing legislation to help ensure that parents receive all the information they need about these products. I look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



Joseph Crowley  
Member of Congress



# FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

April 26, 2011

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Joseph Crowley  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2404 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Crowley:

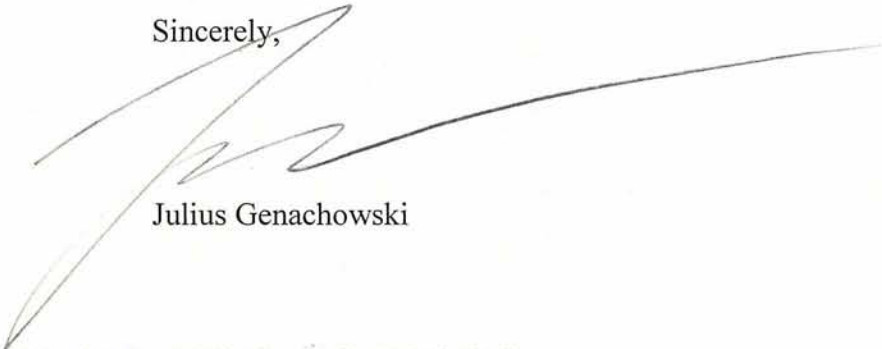
Thank you for your letter regarding the potential unauthorized interception of baby monitor signals. I understand and appreciate your concerns. Although the Commission has not received any specific reports of the use of baby monitors for the nefarious purposes you describe, please be assured that it will monitor this issue to identify any illegal or unauthorized conduct and act accordingly.

Baby monitors and similar unlicensed products are governed by Part 15 of the Commission's rules. Section 15.9 contains a general prohibition against using these devices, either directly or indirectly, to overhear or record the private conversations of others unless all parties consent. The conduct you describe also might violate Section 705 of the Communications Act (47 U.S.C. § 605), a criminal statute that generally prohibits intercepting and divulging radio communications.

It is important to note that, under the Commission's rules, manufacturers may incorporate security measures into devices that make it difficult for unauthorized parties to intercept transmissions. Some currently available baby monitors include such technology. There is no requirement to incorporate security measures into unlicensed transmitters; the decision on whether to do so remains up to the discretion of the manufacturer.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Julius Genachowski